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CERTIFICATION BY FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission in accordance with § 1.8(d) addressed to Art Unit 1656, Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 to Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below.

Date: June 11, 2007By: Mari Kleineidam
Mari KleineidamPATENT
Attorney Docket No. GC716-2-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)	Group Art Unit: 1656
Poulose et al.)	Examiner: Moore, William W.
Serial No.: 10/500,943)	
Filed: April 20, 2005)	
For: Multiply-Substituted Protease Variants)	

Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed December 13, 2006

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed December 13, 2006 and in support of the present Request for Continued Examination (RCE), Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made. Applicants also petition for a three (3) month extension of time to file the present Response. A complete list of the Claims, including marked-up versions of the rewritten, added, withdrawn, and/or cancelled claims is provided below, beginning on page 2. None of the amendments to the Claims is intended to narrow the scope of any of the amended Claims within the meaning of *Festo*¹. The Remarks begin on page 4 and the Conclusion is on page 8.

¹ *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1068, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).
GC716-2 RCE and Final OA Resp 12-13-06